

**Conway Brooks**  
**Wake County Republican Party**

January 18, 2001

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530  
Fax: 202-616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As the Vice Chairman of the Wake County Republican Party, I know a thing or two about public opinion. Let me tell you this - the public wants the courts to approve the settlement between Microsoft and the federal government - and they want it approved now!

In my work as Vice Chairman of the Wake County Republican Party, part of my job is to be aware of public sentiment on important governmental, societal, and other public policy issues. Based on the response of our members on this issue, I can tell you that a significant segment of the American populace is concerned about the consequences of dragging out this lawsuit any longer. For one, it may hinder technological innovation in the marketplace. Who wants to innovate when doing so will get you sued?

Also, the extension of this lawsuit may cause litigious lawsuits between corporate entities to become even more of a cottage industry in America. We have enough lawsuits already that drain enough money out of the United States economy. We need to discourage these lawsuits in the future.

Finally, people across American are worried about the economy, and believe that government needs to work with business, not against it. By settling this lawsuit, government will demonstrate a willingness to work as a partner in, not an opponent to, business. This will enable Microsoft to continue to provide businesses with products that make their operation more efficient.

I ask Judge Kollar Kottelly to approve the settlement.

Thank you,

  
Conway Brooks  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman